

Friday 20th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, a big welcome back to the new term and the onset of some incredible weather that makes it hard to believe we were clearing snow just over a month ago! As I said to the whole school in my assembly first thing on Monday morning, this is such an important term, especially for our Year 11s and Year 13s. The best thing (and perhaps the scariest thing) is that their future is not yet written and they still have many opportunities left to hit even higher grades.

Appointment of a New Headteacher

The process to appoint my replacement will be completed next week. Candidates will be in school next Monday and Tuesday and will undergo a series of interviews and activities, including meetings with student representatives and assemblies. Mr McHale, the Chair of the Governing Body, will of course write to you in due course to outline the outcome.

New School Day Proposals

You will be aware that we undertook a major review of our curriculum last year and this is the time of year when we review those changes and look at ways to refine decisions having 'lived' them for the past two terms. Whilst the broader changes will remain, we have taken a fresh look at our curriculum structure and the school day.

We believe it is in the best interests of our curriculum delivery to move from a 24-period week to a 25-period week and therefore reduce all period 5 lessons from 90 to 60 minutes. Furthermore, we propose to bring an end to the early closure on Wednesdays (currently 2pm) and end the school day at 3:10pm on all five days of the week. This would make each day 'look the same'. The start of the day, the new breaks and the split lunches will be unchanged.

Proposal:

8:42am	Warning bell
8:45am	Registration (20 mins)
9:05am	Period 1
10:05am	Period 2
11:05am	Morning Break (30 mins)
11:35am	Period 3
12:35pm	KS3 Lunch (30 mins) and KS4/5 Period 4
1:05pm	KS3 Period 4
1:35pm	KS4/5 Lunch (30 mins)
2:05pm	Period 5
3:05pm	Registration (5 mins)
3:10pm	End of school

In the coming weeks (and by Friday 18th May at the very latest) I now invite you to comment on these proposals. Please do so in writing or by email to me personally, or by seeking a telephone or face-to-face conversation with me or one of my colleagues. Please let us know if you like the proposals or not and raise any other questions or observations that may help us tweak our current provision.

HEADTEACHER
Mr Barry Doherty

www.colmers.bham.sch.uk

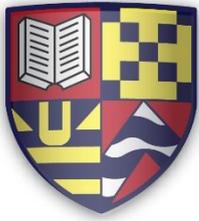
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School Term Dates (2018-19)

A number of parents and carers have already been asking about term dates for next year. I can confirm the following:

Autumn 1: (8 weeks): Monday 3rd September to Friday 26th October
Autumn 2: (7 weeks): Monday 5th November to Friday 21st December
Spring 1: (6 weeks): Monday 7th January to Friday 15th February
Spring 2: (7 weeks): Monday 25th February to Friday 12th April
Summer 1: (4 weeks): Monday 29th April to Friday 24th May
Summer 2: (7 weeks): Monday 3rd June to Monday 22nd July

Further information on the five INSET days will follow in due course.

Our Open Evening will take place on Thursday 20th September, with school closing one hour early on that day.

More detailed information on all of the parents' and carers' consultation meetings, the sixth form open evening and the presentation evening (etc) will be shared after half term, via the Annual Handbook to Parents and Carers.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Doherty

Headteacher

